

THREE DESCRIPTIVE POEMS FROM THE  
CHINESE OF HAN YIK

TRANSLATED BY ARTHUR E. CHRISTY

I.

The moon does not shine very brightly in the hall ;  
Without, the solitary lotus droops.  
I stand alone on the deserted steps  
As the wind blows and the shadows swing.

II.

After the rain, the mossy house-steps are green ;  
Frost comes and reddens the highest leaves.  
A slanting sun-beam shines on the deserted stairway.  
Sad am I—and only my parrot to sympathize.

III.

The chill of early spring enters through my silken curtains,  
Reclining by my painted window, I cannot sleep.  
With night fall has come the rain on the South lake,  
Drenching the boatman who is among the water-lilies.